

Community Partnership of the Ozarks
Cost-Impact Statement of Proposed Funding Cuts

May 1, 2009

Community Partnership of the Ozarks is grateful for the past support of the City and the annual dollars we have received for Partnership core functions that directly benefit the City, as well as City funds for the Summer Sizzler program. As these programs and funding uses are very different, they are detailed below, along with the impact of the loss of these funds.

A. Partnership Core Functions - \$50,000 annually

These funds have been used to support, facilitate and promote positive community growth in areas relevant to the City, through collaboration, program administration and resource development and management. Specifically, we used these funds to employ personnel to:

- (1) Provide oversight of a trash/bulky item clean-up program for neighborhoods within the Caring Communities low-income neighborhoods each year. On average, 12 clean-ups were conducted with over 200 tons of trash removed per year.
- (2) Facilitate various collaboratives and committees with regard to homeless initiatives and prevention services in the neighborhoods; organize a yearly community-wide housing training seminar and resource fair; plan and conduct twice yearly homeless counts and facilitate the Continuum of Care Collaborative and its 6 subcommittees, which are required for submission of the federal HUD grant that brings an average of \$1 million dollars to our community each year for homeless shelters and services.
- (3) Plot data and create maps for City staff and law enforcement depicting domestic violence calls, underage drinking calls ect.
- (4) At the request of the City, assist neighborhoods in becoming City recognized Neighborhood Associations and provide monthly trainings for neighborhood association members on topics such as how to work with and communicate with the City – this has been found to increase positive relationships between City staff and neighborhood members.
- (5) Worked with City and County to bring EPA and DNR monies and grants into our area to assist us in remaining in containment so that the community does not lose federal dollars.

As a result of loss of funds, a vacant full-time staff position that works with the Collaboratives on the homeless grants and efforts will not be filled. The Director of the Collaboratives will reduce time spent on the Continuum of Care, such as not holding the housing resource fair and training and looking at reducing the counts to once per year and will cease spending time on plotting data. Staff will not be available to assist City staff in beginning new neighborhood associations nor will in-depth technical assistance and training be available to them.

B. Summer Sizzler program - \$25,000 annually

In 1995, the City of Springfield asked Ozarks Fighting Back (now Community Partnership) to plan a summer program to keep kids safe and supervised over the summer in an effort to reduce youth violence and substance abuse. Over the years, we have managed this program and last year, funding provided programming for 3,700 teens that gave back 4,000 hours of community service as part of the youth summer programming.

As a result of loss of City funds, the Summer Sizzler program will be discontinued.



DISCOVERY CENTER OF SPRINGFIELD LOSS IMPACT STATEMENT

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Discovery Center of Springfield (DCS) is arguably the most unique and essential not-for-profit institution to benefit from the City of Springfield's financial support. Phasing out your funding assistance is similar to being "penny wise and pound foolish". DCS's contribution to early childhood development makes reconsideration of renewed funding by the Council critical and in the public interest. Our role in returning economic and social value for the investment in our organization is substantial and will continue to grow. What follows are three distinct areas in which DCS contributes to the health and well being of our city and region:

Learning Impact:

We need to embrace the realization that your education is the only thing that can't be taken away from you! This is a critical point to be made with children, especially those who are at-risk. Knowledge is power and an education can mean freedom from the many aspects of an unhealthy life-style. Former US Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich recently stated to the Missouri General Assembly that our country is no longer at-risk in the areas of Math and Science, we are in a Crisis. We must start reaching children at the earliest stages, before kindergarten, in order to ensure the basic skills necessary to learn. This is Early Childhood Development.

DCS is a place that is devoted to people not things. Success is measured in terms of the quality of the experiences that occur rather than in the quantity of people that move through our doors. DCS has the ability to make sure learning is personalized-not mass produced through the following ways:

- **Early Childhood Education-** Science Sprouts integrates science, math, literacy, deductive reasoning skills.
- Our **In-house** programs, field trips, Brain-Byte demonstrations, BodyWorks health education classes for pre-K through high school, Explora-tory Lab.
- **ScienceWorks on the Road** outreach programs have served over 12,000 students in three years, distance learning programs in which we provide all sciences and cultural programs to schools in 28 states and three countries through videoconferencing.
- Scouting events, Home School Days, cultural and other educational special events.

DCS goals are to:

- Ensure that learning is something that is intrinsically motivated, therefore, meeting the individual's unique needs, requirements and interests. Children do not get this type of learning in schools but it is the type of learning the DCS provides when partnering with schools in addition to meeting expectations for family leisure time.
- Provide an environment that is holistic and engaged in problem solving and discovery, sharing knowledge and building ideas collectively with students.

As schools focus on standards based testing, whole areas of curriculum are being eliminated. Not only are academic areas of science, cultural history, and arts being neglected, but key processes such as group learning, critical thinking, and problem solving have become victims to a

teach-to-the-test approach. In addition, a whole range of non-academic life skills have fallen by the wayside. DCS will:

- Keep education at the heart but be more active meaningful players in civic life.
- Measure, evaluate and document our impact on everything from family learning and results of outreach programs, to tourism,
- Be a part of and continue to build learning networks-seek partners to support learning at the same time as we solidify school partnerships.

From a visitor's perspective, museums are best thought of as a setting for the expression of personal identity. This insight is huge because children have a natural curiosity or general interest in discovering more about anything and everything. The mistake is not allowing this to happen. That is what we (DCS) do best.

Community Impact

DCS needs to be part of discussions about how the Center can maintain, build and sustain community relationships and place itself at the heart of this community with respect to education, and at-risk children. DCS needs to be engaged with our communities, providing a sense of place, a neutral forum for civic debate.

In addressing the Red Flags raised in the most recent Community Report Card:

DCS can play a role in improving the social qualities of our community. We have already improved the physical attributes of our city, and county... an increasingly ethnic, racial, and culturally diverse community.

- DCS BodyWorks exhibits and programs focus on healthy habits, healthy choices and understanding body systems and organs. Programs stress preventative measures and the impact of unhealthy choices. Program content is age appropriate beginning with pre-K through high school.
- Through programs, exhibits, and specifically our WorldWise exhibit and program gallery DCS has the opportunity to build and sustain community relationships. Demographic shifts in Springfield and the Ozarks in general are changing the way we need to think about the learning experiences we offer and the services we provide for our community.
- DCS can provide an antidote to the continuing changes occurring in the Ozarks with regard to the increase in cultural diversity. By providing opportunities to engage in and learn about the various cultures-the DCS improves the social qualities of our increasing culturally diverse community. Basically, this could potentially establish the WorldWise Gallery and DCS as being an innovative multicultural center that builds communities and bridges neighborhoods. It is place where diverse groups can come together to learn about each other.
- We will accomplish this by providing a variety of cultural offerings – exhibits, festivals, performances arts and science-striving to make these cultures visible and accessible. This in turn encourages a multi-sensory, interdisciplinary, object based immersive experience. Create authentic experiences.
- Many of the families and children in these cultural groups live in areas that are considered low income, and comprise a majority of our underserved population. This is for two main reasons: low or poverty level income, cultural and/or language barriers (English is a second language). Many children live in households containing sometimes three generations where the parents and grandparents do not speak English.

Financial Impact:

- DCS has been instrumental in leading the way as an example of environmental stewardship in the area of construction/renovation and daily operations of the facility with a US Green Building Council LEED Certified Building at potentially the Gold Level.
- DCS is the leading cultural addition to our county and is touted as a main attraction by the Chamber, industries, businesses, recruiters, and realtors seeking to attract residents.
- DCS was the first to locate in the blighted, deserted area of downtown with a significant capital investment leading the way for revitalization of this area. This fostered redevelopment, tourism, and a renewed interest from citizens of the region to this part of Springfield.
- Returns to the city and region come from direct support for our Center via local, state and national foundations, individuals, businesses, government, and tourist dollars spent throughout our community.
- Outcomes can be measured in economic impact from visitor dollars invested and spent in the downtown area around the Center and an increase in property values in the immediate neighborhood. Capital investment over the last 10 years has been estimated at \$10,000,000. This property, purchased in 1992 for approximately \$350,000, was appraised at \$6,600,000 in 2006 after our expansion. Capital and daily operational funds spent by the DCS have been reinvested in supporting this community through construction and renovation contracts and to local companies we do business with on a daily basis.
- Job Creation: in 1996 DCS had 1 employee and in 2008 DCS has 15 FT/8 PT
- \$1.147M Operating Budget. Again, these funds are reinvested into the community.

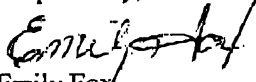
In conclusion, DCS must have on-going support to sustain our operation. Our admission and memberships are not enough and never will be if we are to:

- provide the types of educational services our citizens want and deserve,
- meet the expectations of our citizens,
- serve those students and families that are the most at-risk,
- be present and assist when community issues are discussed and challenges issued.

Without City funding, the programs discussed above will certainly see a negative impact. This cut will impact every facet of the DCS operation. The areas affected could include: staff to support the personalized learning models, educational materials, community outreach to at-risk students and hours of operation. The City of Springfield supported 5% of the DCS budget at the \$64,000 level. We hope that level of support will return.

Thank you for your time and attention regarding this funding request. We ask that you continue to assist DCS with the financial support we have relied upon the past. The future of our children, especially those at children at risk, depends on your support.

Respectfully,


Emily Fox
Executive Director



**Mayor's
Commission
for Children**
Making Sure Every Kid Counts

May 3, 2009

Commission Members

Annie Busch
Chair

Dr Gloria Galanes
Vice-Chair

Kimberly Shinn-Brown
Sec/Treasurer

Dot Atkinson
Roseann Bentley
Jerry Clark
Dr Sandy D'Angelo
Dr Dave Dixon
Dr Judith Gonzalez
Conrad Griggs
Sandy Howard
Jennifer Kennally
Veronica Lowe
Dr Arthur Mallory
Dr Bernie McCarthy
Morey Mechlin
Dr Norm Ridder
Jim Rives
Bob Roberts
Cindy Rushefsky
Randy Russell
Dr Jim Sammon
Dr Karen Scott
Dr Mark Skrade
Becky Spain

Denise Bredfeldt
Executive Director

To: Greg Burris
City Council

Subject: Non-Profit Cost-Impact Statement

First, we thank the City for their past support of the Mayor's Commission for Children and the Red Wagon Kids Community Plan.

The Mayor's Commission for Children is not a non-profit and does not have a 501C3 status. It is a city entity that is funded thru the General Revenue fund with a 27-member advisory board created by a council bill and city ordinance.

As the community's only pure advocacy organization for pre-kindergarten children, we have been responsible for:

- Managing a \$574,000 federal grant called Ready to Learn that improves literacy skills and school readiness in preschool children,
- Researching issues that affect our children's ability to enter school ready to learn and the impact on kindergarten classrooms from those not ready,
- Bringing in experts from around the country to learn what other communities have done successfully,
- Implementing a marketing plan to educate the community about the needs of our youngest citizens, and
- Using the Red Wagon Kids project to mobilize dozens of citizens from the areas of health care, education, business, faith, government and services to find ways that ensure all our kids experience caring adults, safe places, a healthy start, an effective education and opportunities to help others.

The success of our adult population, and therefore this community, depends on their earliest years of life. Through research, awareness, mobilization and advocacy, we have directed the community's attention to the benefits of preventative measures as opposed to the huge cost of remedial measures when children don't have a healthy start.

Loss of city funding affects 100% of our staffing, operations and activities. In effect, the Mayor's Commission for Children will most likely no longer exist when city funding ends.

Sincerely,

Annie Busch
Chair

Denise Bredfeldt
Executive Director

cc. Evelyn Honea
Collin Quigley

May 4, 2009

Dear Mayor & City Council Members,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Ozark Greenways, our 1,052 members, private donors, business partners, cyclists, runners, and general trail users of the Springfield Community, I wish to thank you for your past, generous support of Ozark Greenways. We also wish to express our understanding for the tough budget decisions you are facing.

We appreciate this opportunity to relate for you the role Ozark Greenways plays in the community and in our partnership with the City of Springfield, and The Springfield Greene County Park Board.

- For the past 16 years, Ozark Greenways has worked in concert with the City and the Park Board to plan, develop, and deliver a community-wide trail system which is currently the envy of several communities of our size in Missouri. This plan is not Ozark Greenways' plan, but, rather, the Vision 20/20 Plan designed by the citizens of Springfield. We simply work with various organizations, agencies, landowners and individuals to implement, not only the trail plan, but elements of the Open Space Plan as well.
- We have been successful in applying for and receiving some \$3,860, 418 in federal and state grants for the Park Board and City of Springfield in which all the funds have gone directly into placing projects on the ground. In addition, we work to acquire voluntary easements from landowners that save the community costly expenditures for trail/greenway land acquisition.
- In addition to another 1.5 million dollar from grants and foundation requests we put forward, we also rally community-wide volunteer support for the projects and activities we offer. This exceeds 5,600 hours a year of professional support through our Board of Directors, Land Trust Committee, Technical Committee, and level I volunteer opportunities with churches, scouts, and school groups.

While we understand the necessity to carefully review the City's expenditures, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss with you the current services we bring to the community. If these are not performed by Ozark Greenways, they would have to be managed by some division within the City. Thus grant funds might not be applied for or received, therefore leaving funds from federal programs, which we have all paid into, on the table and not benefiting the citizens of Springfield.

We would like very much to work with the City to structure funding adjustments which have the least impact on direct community services and on our commitment to develop the citizen's *Vision 20/20 Parks, Open Space, and Greenways Plan Element*.

Because we provide services which have community benefits in the realm of ***Transportation, Health, Tourism, Economic Development, Environmental & Water Quality, Open Space/Farmland Protection, Outdoor Education, Lifestyle and Community Livability***, we do not believe that the Park Board should be expected or required to absorb administration cuts related to Ozark Greenways. This was not the original intent of the vision conceived between the City and Ozark Greenways leadership in 1991 when creating the private/public partnership.

With regards to the budget cut directed our way, we will do our best to make up the difference with additional grant efforts, special events, and private fundraising. The loss of City funding to us will impact the position of our Executive Director as that is the use of our public funding assistance from the City. This represents 15.6% of our operating budget. Ozark Greenways funds all other staff and administrative costs related to our operation, including the application and management of grants received for trail development. We plan to continue our work and commitments with various departments, agencies and community groups. We also support the City in a long range plan for budget recovery.

Sincerely,

Kurt Larson, President
Ozark Greenways



A Safe Communities Program

840 Boonville, Springfield, MO 65802
Telephone: 417-864-2037 Fax: 417-874-2121
e-mail: tsa@ci.springfield.mo.us

May 1, 2009

Springfield City Council
840 Boonville
Springfield, MO 65802

Re: Statement in Response to the Impact of Loss of City's Contribution

Dear Council Members:

The Traffic Safety Alliance (TSA) is a contract employee of the City of Springfield and liaison from the State of Missouri and not truly a non-for profit organization indicated in the budget scenarios. We are doing business as the City of Springfield, and have since the 1990's when it moved from the County. We currently are working under a contract between the City of Springfield and Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), Division of Highway Safety that will end on September 30, 2009.

Currently, the Traffic Safety Alliance works 20 hours (\$357) a week on phone calls, motorcycle safety information, grant reporting requirements, bicycle safety and child passenger safety information. Previously, the Springfield Police Department helped to implement several of these programs until COP, DARE and PAR officers were sent back to the street to cover staff shortages. In addition, TSA writes the grants for itself as well as the Springfield Police Department's Traffic Section in the amount of \$216,000, which takes 25 additional hours. At TSA's current rate of pay, this computes to approximately \$19,000 a year. If traffic section personnel are required to pick up these additional responsibilities, an average cost of \$55 per hour (including pay and benefits), that would compute to \$44,275 per year. The grant agreement for matching funds is merely \$26,400 for the entire year for TSA's salary and benefits, so this is a considerable cost savings over what it will cost members of the Police Department to perform the same functions - not to mention the staffing shortages they are currently operating under. All other grants through MoDOT, Highway Safety Division do not have matching funding except for equipment purchases.

The Motorcycle Rider's Course program has been run by the Traffic Safety Alliance since 1993 for the Springfield area, and has been accumulating small amounts of revenue since its



The Traffic Safety Alliance of the Ozarks is funded by the
Missouri Department of Transportation, Office of Highway Safety and the City of Springfield.



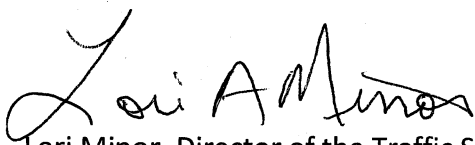
inception. It is immeasurable the amount of cost saving we have provided to the community in insurance discounts, traffic crashes and fatality prevention. The revenue has accumulated to approximately \$20,000 and could be offered to go toward matching funds of this program to assist with the City's match. We are currently trying to secure other funding sources as well to assist with the cost to the City. It is important to note, again, that the entire cost of TSA for the City of Springfield is \$26,400, so using this funding/revenue as suggested would reduce the City's cost to just over \$6,000, for the next fiscal year.

We have attached a copy of the annual report for 2008 showing how we have over achieved our goals and have made over 26,000 people contacts this last year by:

- Providing child safety seats and education to 5,466 people.
- Training members of the WIC office and other personnel of the City.
- Donating (and adjusting) 314 bike helmets to kids and adults in our community that couldn't afford them.
- Presenting seatbelt and drinking and driving programs to 15,617 people. Greene County has been in the top three counties for underage alcohol involved crashes as well as over 21 years of age alcohol related crashes for the last seven years.
- Please reference the attached annual report for additional program information.

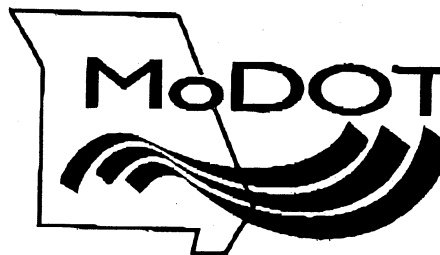
The TSA provides valuable services to both the citizens of Springfield and members of the Police Department. With the proposal presented, the TSA contract could be renewed for the next fiscal year with minimal cost to the City.

Thank you for your consideration of this request,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori A. Minor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lori" being more prominent and the last name "Minor" written in a more compact, cursive style.

Lori Minor, Director of the Traffic Safety Alliance

Missouri
Department
of Transportation



Pete K. Rahn, Director

Highway Safety Division
2211 St. Mary's Blvd.
P. O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-4161 or
(800) 800-BELT
Fax (573) 634-5977
www.modot.mo.gov

May 4, 2009

Mr. Greg Burris, City Manager
Busch Municipal Building
840 Boonville
Springfield, Missouri 65802

Dear Mr. Burris:

This letter is sent in support of the Traffic Safety Alliance of the Ozarks (TSA), the Safe Communities Program of Springfield. It is my understanding that the City will be meeting to consider future funding of this program. We would welcome the opportunity to provide our endorsement.

The Highway Safety Division of MoDOT has a vested interest in the continuation of this program. This agency has provided federal grant funding to support Springfield's program since its inception in the early to mid 1980's. Since that time, the various coordinators of the program have made a tremendous impact on traffic safety prevention efforts in Springfield and the surrounding communities. Just to name a few, the safe communities program has:

- spearheaded countless local traffic safety projects;
- reached tens of thousands of local school children with safety prevention messages;
- assisted the police department with grant application development, record keeping, and program administration;
- been responsible for the safe communities grant which brings annual resources to the City of Springfield;
- trained thousands of parents/caregivers on the proper installation of child safety seats; and
- had a profound impact on traffic crashes within the greater Springfield area because of the program's unique ability to focus solely on traffic safety issues.

I am fully aware of the fiscal difficulties faced by the City of Springfield at this time. While it is difficult to put a price on prevention, costs associated with traffic crashes are astronomical and cannot afford to be overlooked when tough funding decisions are to be made. It is my sincere hope that the City will give careful consideration to retaining this program, which has proven its worth for approximately 25 years.

I would be glad to entertain further questions or discussion on this issue.

Sincerely,

Leanna Depue, Ph.D.
Director, Highway Safety Division



MISSOURI

ANNUAL REPORT 2007

PROJECT TITLE: Springfield Safe Communities

PROJECT NUMBER: 07-SA-09-04

GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

Goal: To develop a comprehensive approach to reduce traffic crashes resulting in injury or death.

Objectives:

- Conduct a minimum of 15 drinking and driving related programs.
- Conduct a minimum of 15 seatbelt programs.
- Conduct a minimum of 5 bicycle safety programs.
- Conduct a community wide BIKING SPREE with various partners.
- Conduct a minimum of 6 community wide carseat check-up events with various partners.
- Conduct a minimum of 1 32-hour child passenger safety technician or advocate training.
- Be an active participant with the local Safe Kids Coalition chapter, and as a senior CPS tech. for events.
- Work with the Springfield Police Department on traffic safety prevention education programs.
- Participate in the Older Driver Campaign and the Distracted Driver Campaign by MoDOT.
- Provide educational materials and videos whenever needed to area public and private schools and businesses.

STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES:

Various strategies and activities were conducted in order to meet the goals and objectives. These include: (1) numerous school programs targeting all ages from pre-K to through college; (2) community programs including exhibits at safety fairs and presentations to groups; (3) coordination and implementation of safety events from drinking and driving projects, car seat check up events, bike safety programs/rodeos, while working with various partners in the community.

RESULTS:

Completed and exceeded all objectives as stated above. These goals and objectives were met specifically through the following:

- Conducted 39 safety-belt and drinking and driving-related programs were completed reaching 6,134 people, exceeding my goal of 10 programs. Support letters were included with quarterly reports.
- Conducted 27 bicycle and pedestrian safety-related programs to parents & children reaching 3,040 people. We exceeded our goal of 5 programs and were able to fit and give 263 helmets to kids and adults.
- Conducted 11 bike rodeos. 7 events were held within Greene County, and one event each in the following counties: Christian, Lawrence, Webster and Wright Counties. In doing so we were able to work closely with local agencies to assist with efforts by, ie. Heart of Springfield Optimist Club, Forrest Ave Assembly of God Church, Springfield Safe Kids Coalition, Christian County Sheriff's Department, Nixa and Springfield Police Departments, the Discovery Center and local bicycle clubs. We far exceeded our goal of one city-wide bike rodeo.

TSA provided assistance with efforts of the "Battle of the Belt" high school competition in the region 8 MoDOT District by administrative work, brochures, liason and as a guest speaker for assemblies.

Conducted 15 Child Passenger Safety seat checks. Through those checks and individual appointments a total of 471 seats were checked. 86 were given to families in need and appropriate for the child.

Conducted 2 Child Passenger Safety Technician class, training 22 students. We also held CPS Update class for 6 CEU credits, for 35 Technicians from all over the state of MO.

The Traffic Safety Alliance is an active member and partnering agency in most of the events of the Springfield Safe Kids Coalition. Lori Minor was chosen to be the bicycle safety committee chair. Leading the efforts for International Walk to School Day, Walk This Way and all bicycle rodeos.

The Traffic Safety Alliance in partnership with MoDOT Region 8 and the MO State Hwy Patrol, Troop D, trained 225 students on motorcycle safety through 10/21/07. There were 206 students complete either the Experience or Beginners Riders Courses, with 13 incompletes and 6 people failing. The instructors not allowing these 19 students to pass or incomplete this course may have saved at least these 19 lives and in reality could be more. There are still 3 more classes left for this calendar year offering to 36 more students.

Provided training and educational materials to the community upon request.

MDHS COORDINATOR: Vicky Williams

Funds Expended: \$50,970.82 with MoDOT paying \$29,892.63. Final voucher was mailed 10/24/07.

Created by Lori Minor, Director of the Traffic Safety Alliance



LIVE IN THE CENTER OF IT ALL!

April 29, 2009

Urban Neighborhoods Alliance
1475 N. Benton
Springfield, MO 65802
Phone (417) 865-4774
Fax (417) 865-5995

Officers

Cindy Stephens
President
Ron Coluccio
Vice-President
Bob Grand
Secretary
Steve Wiemer
Treasurer

Board of Directors

Ron Coluccio
Janet Dankert
Fr. Denis Dougherty
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Shirley Robbins
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Les Ford
Brendan Griesemer
Vance Holland
Kyle McClure
Matt Miller
Matt Morrow
Chrissy Phillips
Rusty Worley

Staff

Bob Horton
Executive Director
Andrew Litchy
*Community Support &
Service Coordinator*

Dear Mayor & Members of City Council,

Since 2002, the Urban Neighborhoods Alliance has contracted with the City of Springfield to provide core services that it would otherwise have provided itself, but with City employees, benefits, and overhead. Since that initial contract, the following things have occurred in Springfield's center city neighborhoods:

- 1) The average selling price for a home in the UNA footprint has increased by 40.5%. Comparatively, homes in the Weller/Bissett/York/Westport area have increased by 12.4% and Delaware/Rountree/Sunshine area by 16.5%;
- 2) UNA has fostered a relationship with Home Depot and their *Framing Hope* initiative where more than \$16,000 in merchandise has been distributed to neighborhood residents at no cost;
- 3) Through private funding, UNA has established the *ToolBox*, a tool lending library, where neighborhoods residents who join the library have access to more than \$4,000 worth of tools, thus providing access to the tools [literally] residents need to improve their homes.
- 4) UNA has been the lead agency for the initiative to track and address foreclosures in Springfield and Greene County. As you are aware, foreclosures reached an all-time high of 1,110 for last year;
- 5) Since UNA started training landlords in the Springfield area through its annual workshop, over 300 landlords or property managers representing 13,000+ housing units have attended.

UNA is slated to receive funds through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program for developing and implementing a neighborhood land trust that will purchase and rehab homes that have been foreclosed. The concept is to then sell the house separate from the land to insure permanent affordability. To accomplish this, the programs described above must be given less attention in order to accomplish the goals of the land trust with existing staff.

We have solicited money from corporate partners but, as you know, with the economic crisis, many are unable to contribute to our success. Without assistance, we cannot help our Springfield residents improve their quality of life.

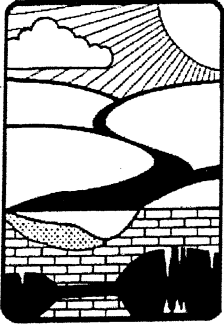
The City of Springfield represents about 67% of our funding. As you can imagine, losing the city's contract for services will have a drastic impact on our mission and how we go about accomplishing what we do with so little.

Thank you for the opportunity to share the impact of losing funds from the City of Springfield.

Sincerely,

Bob Horton
Executive Director





3/10/09
Greg Burris
City Manager
City of Springfield

Dear Mr. Burris,

It has been the mission of the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks (WCO) to protect watersheds that supply drinking water to Springfield and the surrounding region since our inception. Over 24 years ago, the Chair of the Board of Public Utilities, N. L. "Mac" McCartney, sent a memo to Springfield Mayor Harry Strawn. The memo began: "With your concurrence, I have appointed an ad hoc task force to develop a program for the protection of surface and subsurface watersheds which supply Springfield and the surrounding area with drinking water." This proactive approach has proven successful with the WCO acting as the vehicle through which water supply protection would occur.

At your request we are providing you with information pertaining to the City of Springfield's ability to meet mandated requirements by supporting the (WCO) through annual contributions to our operating budget.

The City of Springfield and Greene County are now required by the EPA, through the Missouri Clean Water Commission, to obtain state and federal permits to discharge stormwater into streams that drain from the City and County. The current storm water permit (MO-0126322) requires the City to administer a storm water management program to address the potential for discharges from the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) to negatively impact area waterways by reducing both pollutants in storm water runoff and dumping of pollutants directly into the MS4. The permit contains specific required activities and programs that must be implemented to comply with the permit, such as stream and runoff monitoring, public education, industry inspections and more. Through financial support of the WCO, the City is able to meet its requirements for public education and outreach related to impacts of stormwater on water supplies. In the City's 2007-2008 NPDES annual report this fact is made very clear. It states,

"Education/outreach and public involvement on storm water issues is provided through a variety of programs and projects as well as displays and presentations at community events, media and publications opportunities, and presentations, workshops and information packets for area citizens. The City also provides funding support to the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks (WCO) and James River Basin Partnership (JRBP). This report does not include all of the many projects and activities by these two groups, which are vital [emp. added] components of the overall program."

By supporting the WCO through the storm water sales tax and annual contributions to the WCO operating budget, the City has been able to successfully implement and enhance its storm water management program through the installation of a rain gage monitoring network (WCO funded ½ the cost), storm water Best Management Practice demonstrations (at the Watershed Center), and a variety of water quality education programs. In 2008, the WCO was able to directly reach over 50,000 individuals through education and outreach efforts!

In addition to the aforementioned requirements, the WCO is helping the City and County meet priorities identified in the Vision 20/20 comprehensive plan relating to protection of environmental resources, water quality, and providing a central home for educational activities and programs at the Watershed Center. This year WCO celebrates 25 years of providing Springfield and Greene County with programs essential for adequate water quality and supply protection. We hope this letter has addressed the role the Watershed Committee is taking in meeting responsibilities to our citizens, community, and state and federal agencies.

Sincerely,

Matt Keener

Matt Keener

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Inc.

320 North Main Avenue
Springfield, Missouri
65806

417-866-1127
(Fax) 417-866-1918

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